

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages 1

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| To | HOUSE |
| From | GCCD 400-557-2740 |
| Dept./Agency | HB-805 |
| Fax # | 406-444-4825 |

NSN 7540-01-317-7368 5089-101

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 3/5/07
HB 805

GARFIELD COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
JORDAN SERVICE CENTER
P.O. BOX 369 - JORDAN, MT 59331
Phone: (406) 557-2740 Fax: (406) 557-6191

March 1, 2007

Dear Appropriations Committee Members,

John Sinrud, Janna Taylor, Eve Franklin, Bill Beck, Tim Callahan, Edith Clark, William Glaser, Ray Hawk, Cynthia Hiner, Joey Jayne, Dave Kasten, Bill McChesney, Penny Morgan, John Musgrove, Rick Ripley, Jon Sesso, Jack Wells, and Craig Witte

The Garfield County Conservation District would like to express our strong support for funding the Missouri River Conservation Districts Council through HB-805. The Council continues to provide Conservation Districts along the Missouri River corridor with a much needed unified and strong voice on Missouri River issues. The Council with members in each of the Conservation Districts along the river accurately represents the local perspective of Missouri River issues. In its current state, HB-805 does not provide enough funding for the Council to maintain or expand its current operations, and we would like to see increased funding specifically for the Council.

The Garfield County Conservation District is aware of the vast federal management of the Missouri River corridor and it is difficult for an individual Conservation Districts concerns to be heard and make a difference. The Council however gives Conservation Districts along the River the unified voice that we so very strongly support and feel the need for. As a Conservation District we feel as though the Council is beginning to make a difference. Some examples of this are the increased communication between federal staff and local landowners at the Monument, the increasing communication and potential for joint projects with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge, and a better understanding of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' operation of the Fort Peck Dam and the Corps' recognition of Montana's unique needs along the reservoir and river.

In addition to these efforts, the Council worked to bring the \$57 million Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to Montana and continues to advocate for changes that will make the program more effective. The Council has also provided valuable training on land use planning issues along the Missouri River by providing up-to-date, relevant, and much-needed information to the local decision-makers.

The Garfield County Conservation District urges you to support the Council so that they can continue representing the local needs and interests along the Missouri River and continue working toward the sustainability of the river and its multiple uses.

With our Strong Support,

The Garfield County Conservation District

Rachel Takala

Rachel Takala, District Administrator

Conservation Districts are governmental subdivisions of the state designed to help citizens conserve their soil, water, and other renewable natural resources.



NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

555 CAPITOL MALL, SUITE 625

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814

(916)446-2455 voice ■ (916)448-7469 fax

STATE & LOCAL AFFAIRS DIVISION

BRIAN JUDY, MONTANA STATE LIAISON

TO: Members of the House Appropriations Committee
FROM: Brian Judy, NRA-ILA Montana State Liaison
DATE: March 5, 2007
RE: Support for a \$1,000,000 Appropriation for Shooting Ranges- House Bill 805

On behalf of the more than 27,000 National Rifle Association members who live in the state of Montana, I would like to register strong support for an appropriation for the purpose of improving and developing shooting ranges in the amount of \$1,000,000. This provision is contained in House Bill 805, the budget bill for DFWP and DNRC.

In the last couple legislative sessions, \$320,000 was appropriated in the budget for shooting ranges. Typically this money has been committed for projects within a matter of weeks of the money being available. There has historically been significantly more demand for resources than there have been resources allocated for this important purpose. The National Rifle Association urges an increase in shooting range funding for the next biennium.

Firearm shooting ranges have established a long tradition of service to a wide variety of citizen groups in local communities. They serve as training facilities for law enforcement officials and military personnel, they offer firearm and hunter education and safety courses which provide invaluable hands-on instruction in the safe and proper handling and use of firearms and they serve as a location to hold both informal practice sessions and organized competitions for those engaged in recreational shooting.

It is important that the State of Montana commit adequate funding to ensure that there are resources available to maintain the current ranges and help provide new facilities when the demand presents itself. The provision of safe places for law-abiding citizens to use their firearms is of paramount importance in a state like Montana which has such a strong tradition of firearms ownership and use.

It is critical to understand that this money will NOT come from the General Fund but, rather, from sportsmen license fees.

A \$1,000,000 appropriation for shooting ranges will provide real benefits to Montana's law-abiding firearm users and to the public at large. The members of the National Rifle Association ask for your favorable consideration of this funding request.

February 28, 2007

Appropriations Committee

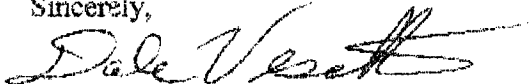
Re: HB-805

Dear Committee members,

The Ranchers Stewardship Alliance (RSA) would like to support permanent funding for the Missouri River Conservation District Council. This group has coordinated local groups with state and federal agencies to ensure multiple uses along Montana's historic Missouri River system. Water is and will continue to be of the utmost importance to Montana and all Montanans. The Council has reached out to diverse interests and has demonstrated strong leadership in developing cooperation between the various stakeholders. This group is very active and the staff is professional and efficient. They have done exceptional work and need our continued support.

The Ranchers Stewardship Alliance would like to thank the Appropriations Committee for their consideration on this important funding issue that with its passage will pay large dividends for future generations.

Sincerely,



Dale Veseth, President
Ranchers Stewardship Alliance
22787 Midale Rd.
Malta, MT 59538
(406) 658-2504
djvsth@mtintouch.net

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|-------------------|--------------|---------|-------------|---------------|---|
| Post-it® Fax Note | 7671 | Date | 3/4/07 | # of pages | 1 |
| To | Approp. Comm | From | Dale Veseth | | |
| Co./Dept | HB 805 | Co | | | |
| Phone # | | Phone # | 658-2504 | | |
| Fax # | 444-4825 | Fax # | call first | | |

TONGUE AND YELLOWSTONE RIVER IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Roger Muggli, Manager

RR 1, Box 2216

Miles City, MT 59301

406-232-4038 home

406-232-5312 work

406-951-0296 cell

Dear Appropriations Committee,

I am manager of the T&Y Irrigation district at Miles City since 1988, . I am the third generation manager, following my father and grandfather, who was one of the Yellowstone River Compact authors of 1950. My family and I have a large irrigated farm in this district that started in 1925, that is still in operation and has an on farm livestock feed pelleting plant.

The Yellowstone River Conservation district Council desperately needs the financial support through house bill 805, this council is mapping the very future of the Yellowstone River, its beneficial uses to recommendations for riprap, dyking, mapping and general activities within the general flood plane of the river. By studying the past history of the river, to mapping the future for generations to come. What better way to put a tiny portion of the state funding surplus to good use for generations to come. After all, the Yellowstone River is the "Crown Jewel" of the nation, and what a way to do something positive for generations to come, and the future health of this magnificent River.

Sincerely



Roger Muggli

NORTH VALLEY COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT, INC.
P.O. BOX 119
SAINT MARIE, MT 59231

PHONE: 406-524-3374 FAX: 406-524-3375

February 28, 2007

Governor Brian A. Schweitzer:
Lieutenant Governor John Bohlinger:
State Senator Sam Kitzenberg (SD 18):
State Representative Wayne Stahl (HD 35):

While worthy causes abound for the anticipated surplus in the Montana state budget, we, the community of St. Marie, in northeast Montana, urgently request your public endorsement of using the money to fund seriously needed improvements in the infrastructure of small community water systems, especially ours. This is an investment that will pay immediate dividends and attract future growth and development.

As you may know, the Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) recently announced its awards to a crowded field of applicants. We and many others did not make the list.

Now we must resolutely develop other scenarios to meet this acute need. In our particular case, we need to replace water lines, valves and hydrants in a portion of our water transmission line that was closed in the late 1990s to protect the water quality of customers. This portion is vital to completing a loop acutely needed in the event that a break should occur along the Fifth Street line which would result in no water for our customers. With new lines, valves and hydrants, we can prevent that scenario by isolating the water system and then installing new service lines to our existing customers in three areas - the northern half of the MCP area, the western and southern border of the Capehart edition and the MCP addition.

Why is this so urgent? We're growing. St. Marie is lucky. We're one of the few pockets of northeast Montana experiencing an increase in population. In the past year, we've had sales of 60 units - sold one at a time to families. When incorporated in 1991, our water district thought it would be serving a condominium community of military retirees. But, today, 15 years later, the customer base is a diverse community of 200 people, living in 96 homes. Of that number, 18% are school-age children, 54% work and 28% are full-time retired citizens serving on various boards and committees that benefit our community. In the summer, our headcount swells by 30 families, each one arriving with anticipation of water flowing from the tap. All of these people - whether here full time or part time - in St. Marie pay for and expect the utility when they arrive home.

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Jerry M. Ketchum, President
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert L. Anderson

Henry C. Endler

Kenneth M. Leorn

William L.

NORTH VALLEY COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT, INC.
P.O. BOX 119
SAINT MARIE, MT 59231

PHONE: 406-524-3374 FAX: 406-524-3375

The second reason for urgency is that with this steady growth, obviously our water usage is increasing and our aging, outdated system is under stress. For repairs now, we are cannibalizing the system because most of its components are obsolete and cannot be replaced.


The forecast for economic development in Eastern Montana accentuates the positive. With the excellent telecommunications in our area, a variety of internet businesses is possible. In the area of energy, as you know, there's talk of windmills and bio-diesel plants in our area that will directly affect the population of St. Marie.

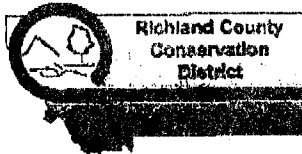
St. Marie itself has four full-time employers: MARCO, a subsidiary of Boeing Company; Perma Life, a recycled rubber storage company; the St. Marie Condominium Association; and, of course, the water district.

And if economic development is slower in coming to our area, your role is even more important in providing funding solutions for water projects that protect Montana citizens. Not just in St. Marie, but in all of Montana.

Please give House Bill LC1917 your immediate attention. Thank you.

Sincerely,


334B Walnut Ct
St Marie, MT 59231

**Richland County Conservation District**2745 W Holly ST
Sidney, MT 59270

PH 406-433-2103 X 101 *Fax 433-7351

February 26, 2007

House Appropriations Committee

Fax # 406-444-4825

Re: Letter of Support - Yellowstone River Conservation District Council

Dear Mr. Kasten;

We appreciate the opportunity to express our support for the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council and its undertaking - the Yellowstone River cumulative effects study and planning process. The advancement made by the Council to date in managing and enhancing the Yellowstone River Corridor is a direct result of the perseverance of its members, the continuing public interest in its activities, and the close working relationship it enjoys with both state and federal agency representatives.

As an active member of the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council the Richland County Conservation District is in full support of the Council's request for an additional \$40,000 per year to cover increasing costs and budget shortfalls. Without the needed increase, the work of the Council could be in serious jeopardy.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me at your convenience. Thanks again for the opportunity to express our support for the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council.

Sincerely,

Tony Barone
Tony Barone, Chairman *by JB*
Richland County CD

**Richland County Conservation District**

2745 W Holly ST

Sidney, MT 59270

PH 406-433-2103 X 101 *Fax 433-7351

Appropriations Committee

Fax # (406)444-4825

HB 508 Funding for Missouri River Conservation District Council

Dear Representative Kasten:

The Richland County Conservation District is an active member of the Missouri River Conservation Districts Council and we strongly support funding for the council. The council brings a unified voice on Missouri River issues for all Conservation Districts along the Missouri River Corridor. The council with a member for each district accurately represents the grass roots perspective of Missouri river issues. With the vast federal management of the Missouri River Corridor it is hard for one district to be heard but when the conservation districts from the entire corridor join together agencies begin to listen. Some examples of this are: increased communication between federal staff and local landowners in the Monument, increasing communication and the potential for joint projects with the US Fish and Wildlife Services at the CMR National Wildlife Refuge; a better understanding of the US Army Corps of Engineers operation of the Fort Peck Dam and the Corps' recognition of Montana's unique needs along the reservoir and the river.

The council worked to bring the \$57 million Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to Montana and continues to advocate changes in the program to make it more effective to Montana landowners. The council provides valuable information to landowners on issues pertinent to each reach of the river. Salt Cedar (Tamarisk) education on the lower reach is one example of providing up-to-date, relevant information to land owners and recreation enthusiasts on the river. We encourage an increase in the funding to help the Council focus on projects specific to each reach of the Missouri River. The focus on the lower Missouri is increasing due to the implementation of the endangered species act.

Richland County Conservation District urges you to support the Missouri River Conservation District Council so they can continue to represent the local land owners' needs along the Missouri River. The sustainability of the Missouri River and its multiple uses are of great importance to the Conservation Districts along the Missouri River. Please support the funding for the Council.

Sincerely,

Don Iversen, Supervisor
Richland County Conservation District



From the Desk of

Boris Krizek, Environmental Engineer

Public Works Environmental Affairs

P. O. Box 30958

2251 Belknap Avenue

Billings, MT 59111

406/247-8517

Fax 406/657-8319

krizekb@ci.billings.mt.us

March 2, 2007

Letter of Support – House Bill 2 Additional Funding for the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council

Dear, Mr. John Sinrud, Chairman Appropriations Committee

We appreciate the opportunity to express our support for the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council and its undertaking - the Yellowstone River cumulative effects study and planning process. The advancements made by the Council to date in managing and enhancing the Yellowstone River Corridor is a direct result of the perseverance of its members, the continuing public interest in its activities, and the close working relationship it enjoys with both state and federal agency representatives.

The City of Billings Public Works Department has supported the Council and its constituent Conservation Districts by having me represent the municipal interests on the Resource Advisory Sub-committee. Furthermore, we are in full support of the Council's request for an additional \$40,000 per year to cover increasing costs and budget shortfalls. Without the needed increase, the work of the Council could be in serious jeopardy.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me at your convenience. Thanks again for the opportunity to express our support for the Yellowstone River Conservation District Council.

Sincerely,

Boris A. Krizek, P.E.
Environmental Engineer